
V. REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated August 8, 2003, claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Philip Anthony Voaden (EP 0392674) in view of the Sado et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,971,748). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended and recited immediately above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claim is allowable as well as for the features they recite. For instance, claim 2 recites the polyimide film is heated in a contactless manner by disposing a heating portion to the pressing die and/or the molding die thereby radiating radiation heat and/or releasing a heating gas from the pressing die. Claim 3 recites that a porous metal is disposed to the concave molding surface of the molding die. Claim 8 recites that the molding section comprises a molding die having a concave molding surface and a pressing die in press contact with an open end of the molding die. For these additional reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3 and 8 are allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (three months)
Request for Continued Examination

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